



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS FUND
601 THIRTEENTH STREET, NW, SUITE 200 SOUTH
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

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Contact: Karen Mocker, (202) 622-8401
Bill Luecht, (202) 622-8042

**CDFI FUND RECEIVES 196 APPLICATIONS
TOTTALLING \$28.8 MILLION FOR NEW SECA COMPONENT**

Washington, DC – The Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund, U.S. Department of the Treasury, has announced receiving 196 applications, requesting \$28.8 million under the first round of the new Small and Emerging CDFI Assistance (SECA) Component of its CDFI Program. “I am very pleased with the demand demonstrated for this new program,” said Acting Director Jeff Berg. “Requests for funding exceed available funds almost three-times over.” The CDFI Fund announced that \$10 million was being made available through a Notice of Funds Availability that was published in the Federal Register on November 27, 2000. The application period closed March 27, 2001.

“We were delighted to see the tremendous response to the new SECA Component,” said Fred Cooper, Program Manager of the SECA Component. “It is essential that the Fund expand its efforts to help build the capacity of smaller, younger organizations and thereby enhance the ability of the CDFI industry to grow and better serve distressed areas across the nation. Further, the demand for the SECA Component is national in scope, the applicants are from 43 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.”

“The great response to the SECA Component parallels the continued increased demand the Fund has seen for its programs this year,” continued Berg. “In total, the Fund has received 592 applications this fiscal year – that is an increase of over 10%.”

The Fund received a total of 153 applications under the current rounds of the Core & Intermediary Components requesting \$215.5 million and \$8.3 million respectively. Only \$50 million is available under the Core Component and \$5 million under the Intermediary Component.

The number of applications received under the Fund's Bank Enterprise Awards (BEA) Program rose to 239 in the current round. If the applicant institutions complete all of the activities proposed in their applications the Fund estimates these institutions would be eligible for awards totaling more than \$130 million – over 5 times the amount of money currently available for the BEA Program.

The CDFI Fund's mission is to expand access to critically needed capital and financial services in distressed urban, rural and Native American communities, areas where one of the biggest obstacles to economic and community development is a lack of access to mainstream sources of private sector capital. The Fund's programs pursue strategies designed to meet the unique needs of each community by assisting the community to respond to its particular circumstances.

Established by Congress in 1994, the CDFI Fund has made \$295 million in awards through its CDFI Program. As required by law, financial assistance through this program must be matched one-to-one with non-Federal dollars resulting in a leveraged Federal investment.

The CDFI Fund has also awarded over \$135 million to banks and thrifts through its BEA Program. These institutions have provided nearly \$683 million in equity investments and financial support to CDFIs, and \$2.4 billion to distressed communities in the form of direct investments, loans and financial services.

For more information on the CDFI Fund and its programs, please visit www.treas.gov/cdfi.

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